

History 381/Public Affairs 388K International History since 1898

Wednesdays, 9:00am-12:pm
Spring 2023
SRH 3.216
University of Texas at Austin

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Office hours by appointment:
GAR 2.122 / SRH 3.378

Course Aims

This is a graduate reading course designed to facilitate historical and policy research across regions and methodological approaches. Intensive course readings will examine historical scholarship on the major international phenomena and events that transformed multiple societies during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Topics will include democratization, globalization, industrial capitalism, total war, economic depression, fascism, communism, Cold War, decolonization, post-industrial capitalism, human rights, insurrection, and terrorism. The course will analyze how different societies and regions experienced common phenomena and events in diverse ways. The course will also interrogate legacies, memories, myths, and lingering traumas.

Academic Accommodations and Academic Integrity

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-410-6644 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Academic integrity is central to the mission of the university. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on the Internet, or created by another

student. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the Dean of Students web page (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/>) and Graduate Studies (<http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/ethics/transcripts/academic.html>). The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.504 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.

Reading Assignments

This course includes a heavy load of weekly reading – generally a full book per week. Students are expected to read all of the assigned materials carefully and critically *before each seminar meeting*. Focus on each author’s key arguments and how they relate to larger historical concerns and debates – how is the author trying to change the way we think about international history? Interrogate narrative strategies – how does the author assemble his or her story for the purpose of convincing the reader? Pay close attention to sources – how does the author “prove” his or her point? Most important, as the semester progresses think about how the assigned readings relate to one another – how is each author responding to other scholars?

Required Book Readings

Clark, Christopher. *Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (New York: Harper, 2014). Paperback.

Crosby, Alfred W. *America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989). Paperback.

Getachew, Adom. *Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019). Paperback.

Hanioglu, M. Sükrü. *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). Paperback.

Harper, Tim. *Underground Asia: Global Revolutionaries and the Assault on Empire* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2021).

Leffler, Melvyn. *Confronting Saddam Hussein: George W. Bush and the Invasion of Iraq* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023).

Overy, Richard. *Blood and Ruins: The Last Imperial War, 1931-1945* (New York: Viking, 2022).

Pim, Keiron. *Endless Flight: The Life of Joseph Roth* (London, Granta, 2022).

Sell, Louis. *Slobodan Milosevic and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003). Paperback.

Spence, Jonathan. *God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan* (New York: Norton, 1996). Paperback.

Suri, Jeremi. *Henry Kissinger and the American Century* (Cambridge, Mass. Harvard University Press 2007). Paperback.

Tooze, Adam. *The Deluge: The Great War, America, and the Remaking of the Global Order, 1916-1931* (New York: Penguin, 2014). Paperback.

Yakimchuk, Lyuba. *Apricots of Donbas* (New York: Lost Horse Press, 2021). Paperback.

Weekly Response Essays

Each week by **5:PM** on the **Tuesday before class**, all students should post a short response essay on the course website (available through UT's Canvas system):

<http://canvas.utexas.edu>.

This response essay should include 3 basic paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize the key arguments in the readings and their significance. The second paragraph should analyze how the week's readings relate to other course and outside texts. The third paragraph should offer the student's critical assessment of the week's readings: What was most persuasive? What was least persuasive? Which are the issues and questions that need more attention? What kind of new research do the readings inspire?

Students are expected to read each other's weekly essays before class. They are also expected to comment substantively on each other's essays. The weekly essays and comments will provide a starting point for each week's class discussion.

Grading

Weekly Response Essays and Comments	35%
Weekly Class Discussion Participation	35%
Final Project	30%

Final Paper (due April 26)

This course provides students with a firm historical grounding in international historical changes since the nineteenth century. For the final paper, each student should choose a topic covered in this course (or a topic not covered.) The final paper should do one of three things:

1. Historiography: Write a 15-20 page paper that critically assesses the historiography of the chosen topic. How have historians analyzed the topic and its changes since the nineteenth century? What are the key differences of interpretation? How do you assess these different interpretations?
2. Original Research: Write a 15-20 page paper that adds original research to a historical topic covered by previous historians. Narrate the insights from your new research. Explain how your new research advances historical understandings of the topic.
3. Policy Application: Write a 15-20 page paper that applies one of the historical themes in this course to a contemporary policy debate. How does the historical analysis in course readings shed new light on a contemporary policy debate? How does historical perspective change the framing for the current policy issue?

You are expected to submit polished, professional papers with footnote references. You will be graded on the analytical content and written presentation of your papers.

Please email your completed paper to Professor Suri by 5pm on **April 26**. Please email your paper to: suri@austin.utexas.edu.

Part I: Continental Empires in Decline

1/11 Austria-Hungary

Pim, *Endless Flight*.

1/18 China

Spence, *God's Chinese Son*.

1/25 Ottoman Empire

Hanioglu, *A Brief History of the Late Ottoman Empire*.

Part II: The Great War and its Aftermath

2/1 Clark, *Sleepwalkers*.

2/8 Crosby, *America's Forgotten Pandemic*.

2/15 Harper, *Underground Asia*.

2/22 Tooze, *The Deluge*.

Part III: The Second World War and its Aftermath

3/1 Overy, *Blood and Ruins*, chapters 1-4.

3/8 Overy, *Blood and Ruins*, chapters 5-11.

3/15 SPRING BREAK – No Class.

3/22 Suri, *Henry Kissinger and the American Century*.

3/29 Getachew, *Worldmaking After Empire*.

Part IV: After the Cold War

4/5 Sell, *Slobodan Milosevic and the Destruction of Yugoslavia*.

4/12 Leffler, *Confronting Saddam Hussein*.

4/19 Yakimchuk, *Apricots on Donbas*.

4/26 Final Projects Due.